



MARCY KAPTUR

REPRESENTING OHIO'S 9TH DISTRICT



Greenhouse & Hoop House Resources Fact Sheet

Greenhouses and hoop houses are playing an important role in America's agricultural economy. While small in number (2.5 percent of all farms in the U.S. are greenhouse, nursery and floriculture operations), this sector accounted for 5.6 percent of all agricultural products sold in the United States. Sales from this industry increased by 13 percent since 2002 and are now valued at an estimated \$16.6 billion per year.

This fact sheet summarizes some of the federal programs Congress established at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that could provide assistance for greenhouse or hoop house projects. Since there are a wide variety of resources available, this fact sheet is separated by resources that could help construction projects, existing greenhouses/hoop houses, and greenhouse/hoop house research.

Should you have any questions or would like to request my support if you apply for funding through any of these programs, please do not hesitate to contact my District office at (419) 259-7500 or my Washington, DC office at (202) 225-4146.

Federal Resources to Construction Greenhouses/Hoop Houses

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative

Administered by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), EQIP provides financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that improve the natural resources (examples soil, water, wildlife) on agricultural land and forestland.

USDA sets-aside specific EQIP funding for the Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative. Through the Initiative, funding is provided to install seasonal high tunnels, which are unheated greenhouses or hoop houses that can extend a producers growing season while conserving resources.

More information: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip>
To learn how to apply: Contact your local office at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP)

Administered by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), CFPCGP awards grants to support projects that help meet the food needs of low-income people, increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for their own needs, and promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm and nutrition issues.

CFPCGP has previously funded a community greenhouse project for low-income beneficiaries.

Previously funded projects: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/food/sri/hunger_sri_awards.html

For more information: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/communityfoodprojects.cfm>
To learn how to apply: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/community_food.html

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's Online Congressional Office: <http://kaptur.house.gov>

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Loans

Administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), direct loans and loan guarantees are available to farmers or ranchers who are unable to obtain credit elsewhere to start, purchase, sustain, or expand a farm business. Loans are typically made to purchase land, construct or re-furbish buildings, purchase equipment or livestock, and establish permanent crops, or finance the costs of annual crops.

Greenhouses, hoop houses, and other season extending projects would be eligible for financing subject to the applicant being able to show sufficient ability to repay the financing.

For more information: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/darfl/default.htm>

To learn how to apply: Contact your local office at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

Farm Credit System Loans

The Farm Credit System (FCS) is a government-sponsored enterprise created by Congress to provide American agriculture with a dependable source of credit. The FCS has evolved into a nationwide network of cooperatively organized banks and associations that are owned and controlled by their borrowers.

FCS institutions provide credit and other services to agricultural producers including cooperatives. In addition, institutions make loans for agricultural processing and marketing activities. Greenhouses, hoop houses, and other season extending projects would be eligible for financing subject to the applicant being able to show sufficient ability to repay the loan.

In order to apply for financing from an FCS institution, you must contact your nearest branch office. You can contact your local branch office by visiting <http://www.farmcreditnetwork.com/about/locations> or calling (703) 883-4056.

Federal Resources for Existing Greenhouses/Hoop Houses

(Loans from FSA or an FCS institution described above could also provide assistance to existing greenhouses/hoop houses in addition to the below resources)

Rural Energy for American Program (REAP)

Administered by USDA's Rural Development division, REAP provides grants and loans to agricultural producers to complete a variety of energy projects including renewable energy systems, energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy development, energy audits, and feasibility studies.

Installing a renewable energy system to heat a greenhouse is an eligible activity under this program. Typical renewable energy systems include solar, geothermal, hydropower, biomass, wind, hybrid and anaerobic digester.

For more information: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_Reap.html

To learn how to apply: Contact your local office at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

Value-Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG)

Administered by USDA's Rural Development division, VAPG provides matching grant funding for agricultural producers who add value to their raw products through processing and/or marketing.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's Online Congressional Office: <http://kaptur.house.gov>

Examples of VAPG funded projects include development of feasibility studies, business plans, marketing strategies, working capital to implement a marketing strategy, and farm-based renewable energy.

Greenhouse producers are eligible applicants under this program in combination with other program requirements.

For more information: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_VAPG.html

To learn how to apply: Contact your local office at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

Federal Resources for Greenhouse/Hoop House Research

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) – Plant Production & Protection Engineering

Administered by USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), SBIR awards grants to small businesses to support high quality, advanced concepts research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefit if successful.

Plant Production & Protection Engineering is one of 10 topic areas for USDA’s SBIR. This topic area seeks projects that enhance crop production by reducing the impact of harmful agents and developing effective crop production systems that are economically and environmentally sound.

Previously funded projects: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/sbir/sbir_abstracts.html

For more information: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/plantproductionandprotectionengineering/sbir.cfm>

To learn how to apply: http://nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/sbir_rfa.html

Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)

Administered by USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), SCRI awards grants for research and extension projects that address specialty crop production issues including researching plant genetics to improving crop characteristics; identifying and addressing threats from pests and diseases; improving overall production and profitability; developing new production innovations and technologies; and developing methods to respond to food safety hazards.

Addressing challenges in producing specialty crops in greenhouses is an eligible activity under this program. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.

Previously funded projects can be found by visiting the “For more information” link below and clicking on the “Abstracts of Funded Projects” link found about halfway down the webpage.

For more information: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/specialtycropresearchinitiative.cfm>

To learn how to apply: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/specialty_crop.html

Additional USDA Informational Resources

USDA’s Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO): <http://www.outreach.usda.gov>

USDA’s Know Your Farmer Know Your Food Initiative: <http://www.usda.gov/knowyourfarmer>

USDA’s Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC): <http://afsic.nal.usda.gov/>

National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service (ATTRA): <https://attra.ncat.org/>

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur’s Online Congressional Office: <http://kaptur.house.gov>